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Representative Ernest Istook Named “Protector of Property Rights”

-Property rights advocacy group presents Rep. Istook with award based on key votes in 2005-

WASHINGTON—Today, Rep. Istook (R-OK) was honored by Property Rights Alliance (PRA) with its inaugural "Protector of Property Rights" award at a ceremony in the U.S. Capitol. The property rights organization presents the awards to members of the House of Representatives who vote along with the property rights community on at least 86 percent of the issues tracked by PRA.

"These key votes were the most critical for the property rights community in the first session of the 109th Congress," said Scott A. LaGanga, executive director of Property Rights Alliance (PRA). **"The property rights community, composed of stakeholders in the defense of both intellectual and physical property rights, can identify which Members are their allies. Representative Istook is more than an ally in this battle; Representative Istook is a ‘Protector’."**

Votes rated by PRA this year included a vote on free trade (which included significant intellectual property protections for participating nations), reform of the Endangered Species Act (ESA), and votes to address eminent domain abuse following the Supreme Court's landmark decision last summer in *Kelo v. City of New London*. The property rights organization double-rated a vote on the passage of the "Property Rights Protection Act of 2005", which seeks to curb eminent domain abuse by withholding all federal economic development funds from states and localities that engage in abusive practices for two years. Additional votes included estate tax repeal and federal land ownership.

"In our inaugural year, we are proud to present the “Protector of Property Rights

Award” to deserving members of the United States Congress," continues LaGanga. "Whether they are rockers or ranchers, property owners deserve to know who has worked to protect their private property rights. Representative Istook is a true champion of private property rights, and Property Rights Alliance offers its thanks and congratulations."

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Property Rights Alliance (PRA) stands as an advocacy organization dedicated to the protection of physical and intellectual property rights, domestically and internationally. PRA is a special project of Americans for Tax Reform. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact Scott A. LaGanga at (202) 390-6978 or at slaganga@propertyrightsalliance.org.